

SUBURBAN LIFE

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1993



DIANE GALE

Reporter off to fast start

A rotating blue light on a police car was the introduction to one of the first people I met in Farmington.

The man who approached my car knew my name immediately. I learned his after he handed me a piece of paper that said I was going five miles over the speed limit on Farmington Road.

God, it was a speeding ticket - and on my first day at work as a reporter for the Farmington Observer.

Other unexpected encounters in the line of duty last week, however, were much more pleasant. There are so many interesting people with stories to tell.

Princess Madiba, for example.

The Farmington Hills woman is planning a day-long fund-raiser featuring various dance techniques and demonstrations to benefit St. Jude Children's Hospital.

"A few years ago my son was in an accident," she said. "God saved him and I decided to do charity. I wanted to do something for children. And I can't think of anything better than St. Jude Hospital."

African, Hawaiian and Middle Eastern dances will be taught from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov.

■ These people are among a wealth of names, groups, places and events that are accumulating in a file with ideas for stories that will appear here in your Suburban Life section. The best tips come from readers who call the office (477-5450) with ideas.

13, at the Fairlane Holiday Inn in Dearborn. Dinner follows at 7 p.m. and a dance concert begins at 8 p.m.

The workshop is \$25, dinner and show are \$20, and the show alone costs \$7. After Nov. 8 the prices change. All proceeds will go to St. Jude Hospital, Mahida said.

Last year she raised \$3,000 in one day for St. Jude Hospital.

For more information call Susan Peel at 541-3193.

I also talked briefly with Kathy Dobbs, who was named Physician Assistant of the Year. That's quite an accomplishment in itself, but Dobbs' story goes further.

She's also the mother of four children, including a set of infant twins. Dobbs sounded amazingly calm when I talked with her last week.

I never actually got to talk to Chuck Shuler, but his name kept coming up while I was at the Farmington Community Center.

It turns out Shuler donated an Amish made quilt to the center in memory of his wife, Rachel Shuler, an avid community center volunteer. Rachel Shuler died in August of 1991.

The quilt was raffled off recently and the \$1,000 or so that was made will go for printing the Good Enough cookbook, a collection of local recipes, according to Laura Collins, community center volunteer coordinator.

The fourth printing of the cookbook will be dedicated to Rachel Shuler and the memory of Betty Bates, who also volunteered at the community center. Both women were on the original cookbook committee.

Money raised from the sale of the \$15 local gastronomic guide will go to the center, which is non-profit and survives mainly on fund-raisers, donations, program fees and room rentals.

The center doesn't receive local, state or federal tax dollars, Collins said. The landmark depends on the kindness of people like Shuler. I have a feeling our paths will cross.

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While I wish I had never made the acquaintance of the man with the blue light, he didn't seem all that bad, either. In fact, I might see him again in five to eight weeks in Farmington's 47th District Court, where I tell a mediator my side of the story.

Reporter Diane Gale promises to drive the speed limit in the Farmington area. She will be writing stories for the Farmington Observer's Suburban Life section. To leave a message for her, call 477-5450 during normal business hours.

For all seasons

Group adds beauty to community



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMLEY

Planting Ideas: Farmington Garden Club members Kay Blakeney, president Betty Pool and Gerri Tobin talk about upcoming activities.



BY DIANE GALE
STAFF WRITER

Just because the burst of color in our yards is gone, don't think Farmington Garden Club members are dormant.

"Winter is when we do all our activities and hold learning sessions," said Gerry Tobin, the publicity chairwoman who rattled off a list of speakers who attend club meetings.

Outside the meetings, club activities are as varied as the 63 members who range in age from their early 30s to early 90s. Currently, the club is all female, but males are welcome, too.

Programs draw in everyone from elementary school students to senior citizens.

Kay Briggs heads Junior Gardeners for students in third through sixth grades. The Farmington Garden Club members of tomorrow meet 4-5 p.m. the first and third Tuesdays of the month at the Farmington Branch Library.

They do everything from plant tulips outside municipal buildings, make holiday wreaths and study various plants to entering a national poster contest celebrating the 50th anniversary of Smokey Bear.

"We give them crafts and get them interested in gardening," Briggs said. At the other end of the age spectrum, the club sponsors the garden therapy class for Farmington Hills Inn residents, which includes sessions that focus on crafts made from natural materials.

Farmington Hills Inn residents who participate make something, like a wreath, to take back to their rooms,

The Farmington Garden Club does much more than plant flowers in the spring. Programs include educational classes for youngsters and craft classes for senior citizens. Best of all, the organization adds color and character to the community.



Last of flowers: This *Crane's Bill* geranium was in bloom recently at the Governor Warner Mansion.

according to Kay Blakeney, club third vice president. The last class attracted a whopping 24 residents, far more people than usual.

The Farmington Garden Club also maintains the herb garden at the Farmington Historical Museum, as well as selected gardens at the Farmington Community Center, Tobin said.

They have a new club project at

See FLOWERS, 3H

Dolled up, ready for Christmas

BY DIANE GALE
STAFF WRITER

Cowgirls were shoulder to shoulder with Victorian ladies, a bride and teens from the '50s complete with poodle skirts.

They wore feathered hats, feather purses, studded outfits and jewelry. All 60 dolls were dressed in designer clothes by five members of the Bernina Sewing Club, which meets the first Wednesday monthly at Marsha's All Sew and Fabric in Farmington Hills.

Dressed to the nines, the dolls sat on a sewing table in the shop recently ready to be taken to Goodfellows volunteers for distribution to needy children at Christmas. The Goodfellows' motto is "No child without a Christmas."

"This is my way of wanting to give back to the community," said



SHARON LEMLEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dressed up: Members of the Bernina Club, which meets at Marsha's All Sew and Vac in Farmington Hills, dressed 60 dolls to be distributed by Goodfellows at Christmas. Dorothy Moss, Marsha Burley, Linda Fruytier, Sharon Waligora and Linda Diaz display their work.

See DOLLS, 3H

Salvation Army plans largest fund-raiser

Christmas Kettles are coming to a shopping area near you.

The Salvation Army is getting ready for the organization's biggest fund-raiser of the year, "and it is vitally important to the ongoing delivery of services to their residents of this area," according to Salvation Army Capt. Homer F. Smith Jr.

"The holidays will soon be here and we at the Salvation Army are making preparations for our annual fund-raising effort, better known as the Christmas Kettle," Smith said. "We would like to be able to maximize the dollars that are contributed this year by using as many volunteers as possible to 'man' our kettle locations."

The Salvation Army is looking for people willing to stand near the kettles during the holiday season.

Christmas Kettles will be placed at various Farmington area locations. They are:

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Capt. Homer F. Smith Jr.

■ Damman Hardware, 23314 Farmington Road;
■ Kmart at Grand River and Holstead;
■ Kmart at Orchard Lake and 14 Mile Road;
■ F & M in Hunter's Square at 14 Mile and Orchard Lake Road;
■ Farmer Jack at 23391 Farmington Road;
■ F & M in West River at 30100 Grand River; and
■ Target in West River at 30020 Grand River.

In Novi the locations are:

■ Kmart, Twelve Oaks;
■ Hudson's, Twelve Oaks;
■ J.C. Penney, Twelve Oaks;
■ Lord & Taylor, Twelve Oaks;
■ F & M, 43235 Crescent Boulevard;
■ Sears, Twelve Oaks; and
■ Mervyn's, Novi Town Center.

If you're willing to help the organization this year, call 477-1153 to reserve a location and date. People willing to work more than one day are also being sought.